

עֲדֵי קַיִם

Prayer for the Righteous

Following the 12th prayer (called the Minim which is against the unrighteous) the Shemonei Esrei includes the prayer for the righteous. This follows the pattern of Psalm 75:11,

“And all the horns of the wicked He will cut off,
But the horns of the righteous will be lifted up.”

In this verse, the word “horn” is used symbolically to refer to one’s strength or influence. Thus, the 13th benediction seeks God’s blessing upon the righteous, beginning with the teachers/leaders, and including all within the congregation. The prayer itself goes like this:

Upon the righteous, upon the pious,
upon the elders of Your people the House of Israel,
upon the remnant of their scholars(scribes),
upon the righteous foreigners (גְּרֵי הַצֵּדִקָּה)
and upon us,
may Your mercy be aroused,
Adonai our God.
Grant bountiful reward
to all who truly trust in Your Name;
and place our lot among them forever,
and may we not be put to shame,
for in You we have put our trust.
Blessed are You, Adonai,
Support and Trust of the righteous.

Thus, the 13th benediction is a general prayer asking for God’s blessings upon all those who trust in Him, and who therefore walk according to His ways. Note carefully that the benediction includes both native born Jews and those who have attached themselves to Israel via faith in God. This shows us that in the early Judaism (when these prayers were being formalized) the presence of God-fearing Gentiles within the congregation of Israel was a common thing.

F	N	J	F	A	P	B	P	X	U	E	S	R	E	I	H
A	W	C	R	L	M	I	D	Q	Q	G	C	T	C	Q	O
I	B	K	O	E	B	E	O	Z	T	C	H	H	H	D	R
T	E	E	P	N	W	S	L	U	F	H	O	S	R	R	N
H	F	X	N	I	G	A	H	D	S	Q	L	H	E	I	S
U	J	B	B	E	B	R	R	E	E	B	A	S	M	G	N
N	L	Z	X	Q	D	O	E	D	M	R	R	V	N	H	A
W	I	C	K	E	D	I	U	G	T	O	S	J	A	T	U
B	M	Z	J	V	Y	X	C	N	A	R	N	M	N	E	R
B	L	E	S	S	E	D	O	T	T	T	U	E	T	O	I
K	D	H	R	L	B	D	Z	I	I	I	I	S	I	U	V
V	Z	S	R	C	J	S	F	P	J	O	F	O	T	S	X
L	O	Y	C	M	Y	X	Z	S	G	K	N	U	N	W	O
L	E	A	D	E	R	S	A	F	X	D	N	N	L	X	Q
H	U	F	O	R	E	I	G	N	E	R	S	C	E	I	Y
P	R	A	Y	E	R	S	U	P	P	O	R	T	O	M	U

BENEDICTION	BLESSED	BOUNTIFUL
CONGREGATION	ELDERS	ESREI
FAITH	FOREIGNERS	HORNS
LEADERS	MERCY	PIOUS
PRAYER	REMNANT	REWARD
RIGHTEOUS	SCHOLARS	SHEMONEI
SUPPORT	TRUST	WICKED

MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILY  בְּנֵי מִשְׁפָּחָה

ש	א	מ	א	ע	כ	ו	א	ב	ס	א		
ן	ס	צ	מ	ח	ג	ם	ת	ב	פ	ל	ז	ב
ת	פ	ל	ז	ב	ך	ש	ע	א	ו	א	ד	ך
נ	ה	ד	כ	נ	ט	ד	מ	צ	ם	ח	ג	ס
ד	ו	ד	י	ג	ר	ב	א	ף	י	ה	ק	ב
ב	פ	ל	ז	ב	ת	ך	ש	ע	כ	ו	א	ת
ן	ר	נ	ט	ד	ן	צ	מ	ח	ג	ם	ת	א
ל	ד	ץ	ר	ס	ד	כ	נ	י	ה	ק		

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|-----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| 6 GRANDMOTHER | סַבָּא . 1 | FATHER | אָבָא . x |
| 7 GRANDSON | נֶכֶד . 2 | MOTHER | אִמָּא . ב |
| 8 GRANDDAUGHTER | נֶכְדָּה . 3 | SON | בֵּן . ג |
| 9 UNCLE | דִּיד . 4 | DAUGHTER | בַּת . ד |
| | | 5 GRANDFATHER | סַבָּא . ה |



Solomon was the wisest man of his times. People would come to him to get answers to their most difficult questions. In this picture, can you find 2 birds, 5 trees, 2 fish, a lizard, and the Aron HaKodesh (Holy Ark or the Ark of the Covenant)?